

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 08784 221020Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 SR-02

ORM-03 RSR-01 /094 W

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O R 220850Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2693

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 8784

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. THE AMERICAN AND KHMER GOVERNMENTS TODAY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING COMPENSATION FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE ACCIDENTAL NEAK LUONG BOMBING AS WELL AS FUNDS, AN AMBULANCE AND EQUIPMENT TO REBUILD THE DAMAGED NEAK LUONG HOSPITAL. NINE MILLION RIELS ARE EARMARKED TO REBUILD THE HOSPITAL WHILE AN ADDITIONAL 71,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT HAS ALREADY ARRIVED IN COUNTRY. AS MUCH AS 15-20 MILLION RIELS WILL GO TO THE SURVIVORS AND RELATIVES OF THOSE KILLED IN THE FORM OF SOLATIUM PAYMENTS. SPEAKING FOR THE

U.S., AMBASSADOR EMORY C. SWANK DEPLORED THE INCIDENT AND
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 08784 221020Z

OFFERED HIS PERSONAL CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES

OF THOSE KILLED AND TO THOSE INJURED. HE CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING QUOTE IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT THE PRESENT HOSTILITIES AND THE SUFFERING THEY CAUSE THE KHMER PEOPLE CAN BE BROUGHT TO AN END THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES, AS ALREADY OFFERED BY THE KHMER REPUBLIC, AND THAT A JUST PEACE CAN BE ESTABLISHED IN CAMBODIA UNQUOTE. IN REPLY, KHMER FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET DECLARED THAT IN THE NAME OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND OF THE POPULATION OF NEAK LUONG, HE WOULD LIKE TO OFFICIALLY THANK THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND QUOTE THE GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THIS NEW PROOF OF SINCERE AND DISINTERESTED SUPPORT THAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS GIVEN IN OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST A WAR OF AGGRESSION UNQUOTE.

2. AT A WEDNESDAY MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE, FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND CHIEF OF STAFF MAJOR GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ APPEALED TO A GROUP OF VISITING THAI JOURNALISTS TO PUBLISH THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. NEWS NOW REACHING THE OUTSIDE WORLD, HE DECLARED, OFTEN GIVES AN UNDULY PESSIMISTIC PICTURE OF THE SITUATION HERE. IN REALITY, HE SAID, THE ENEMY HAS BEEN GREATLY WEAKENED BY LOSSES SUFFERED IN ITS ASSAULT ON PHNOM PENH DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS. MEANWHILE, HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE FANK, WITH THREE YEARS OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE, IS CAPABLE OF RESISTING FUTURE ENEMY OFFENSIVES. HE THANKED THE THAI GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING KHMER TROOPS AND ASSERTED THAT IN CASE OF NECESSITY CAMBODIA WOULD ASK FOR THAI AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT NORTH VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION ON KHMER SOIL.

3. THE PHNOM PENH CAPITAL AREA REMAINED QUIET ON TUESDAY WITH SIGNIFICANT ACTION REPORTED ONLY IN THE BASSAC RIVER AREA WHERE FANK RELIEF FORCES REPORTED MAKING CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY ON TUESDAY NIGHT.

4. THE MAJORITY OF THE GARRISON AT PREY BEANG IN THE VIHEAR SUOR AREA WAS REPORTED SAFE BEHIND FANK LINES WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF TROOPS REMAINING UNACCOUNTED FOR.

5. FANK FORCES WERE REPORTED CONTINUING TO REACT TO ENEMY PRESSURE ON THE PROVINCIAL CITY OF KOMPONG CHAM WITH REINFORCEMENTS AND PROBES OF ENEMY POSITIONS.

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 08784 221020Z

YM TRAFFIC WAS REPORTED NORMAL ON ROUTES ONE, FOUR AND FIVE WITH BOTH ROUTES FOUR AND FIVE CONVOYS ARRIVING IN PHNOM PENH ON TUESDAY WITHOUT INCIDENT.

7. THE SEVENTH DIVISION CONTINUED TO EXPAND GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER TERRITORY TO THE NORTH AND WEST OF PHNOM PENH. MANY RESIDENTS OF THE AGRICULTURAL AREA WERE REPORTED MOVING BACK INTO THEIR

HOMES AND FARMS.

8. A LARGE SEARCH AND CLEAR OPERATION NORTHWEST OF SIEMREAP
ANGKOR WAS REPORTED TO BE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED WITH AN
ESTIMATED TWO THOUSAND FAMILIES HAVING BEEN RETURNED TO GKR CONTROL.

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